

Nostoc punctiforme ATTC 29133, Nucleic acid: Acc. No. NZ_AABC01000196, base pair 140,571 to 139,810 (SEQ ID NO: 29), protein: (SEQ ID NO: 30) (not annotated).

5 Further natural examples of ketolases and ketolase genes, which may be used in the process of the invention, can be readily found, for example, from various organisms whose genomic sequence is known by comparing the identities of the amino acid sequences or 10 of the corresponding back translated nucleic acid sequences from databases with those of the previously described sequences and in particular with those of the sequences SEQ ID NO: 12 and/or 26 and/or 30.

15 Further natural examples of ketolases and ketolase genes can furthermore be readily found, starting from the previously described nucleic acid sequences, in particular starting from the sequences SEQ ID NO: 12 and/or 26 and/or 30, from various organisms whose 20 genomic sequence is not known, using hybridization techniques in a manner known per se.

The hybridization may be carried out under moderate (low stringency) or, preferably, under stringent (high 25 stringency) conditions.

Hybridization conditions of these types are described, for example, in Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E.F., Maniatis, T., in: Molecular Cloning (A Laboratory Manual), 2nd 30 edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989, pages 9.31-9.57 or in Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, N.Y. (1989), 6.3.1-6.3.6.